

REMARKS

As amended, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 7 feature a pressure relief valve that includes a valve chamber in fluid communication with the inner chamber, a basic support defining a chamber, a moveable valve disk, a pin attached to the valve disk and movably located within the chamber of the basic support, and a seal associated with the valve disk. The valve disk and the pin attached thereto are jointly lifted and the contact between the valve disk and the seal is thereby broken when the pressure relief valve is open, and wherein the valve disk and the pin jointly descend from their lifted position into a position in which, due to the weight of the valve disk and of the pin, the valve disk is resting on the seal thereby sealing the valve chamber when the pressure relief valve is closed.

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, and 10-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Shioji combined with Riedlinger. Claims 6 and 9 stand rejected as obvious over these references further combined with Weick.

While not conceding that these rejections are proper, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the present amendment. None of the art of record teaches or suggests the claimed combination of features. Riedlinger, the only reference that provides any details regarding valve structure, describes valves in which fixed pins 13, 14 are "intergrally formed" with an intermediate cover 7 in the case of the inlet valve 9 and with the end cover 8 in the case of the outlet valve 10 (Riedlinger, col. 4, lines 27-36 and FIGS. 1, 2). Consequently, only a peripheral area of each valve disk is reciprocating when Riedlinger's valves are opened or closed (col. 4, lines 42-45). Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of a valve disk and pin that move jointly in the manner recited in Applicant's amended claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and all claims allowed.

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It is believed that no fees are due with this submission, which is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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